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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,757	06/25/2001	John E. Ahern	B0410/7282D1	2885
22832	7590	01/24/2006		
KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM LLP (FORMERLY KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP) 75 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109-1808			EXAMINER WILLIAMS, CATHERINE SERKE	
			ART UNIT 3763	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

The objection to claims 31-32 has been withdrawn in light of the amendment to the claims dated 12/30/05

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20-27 and 29-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wappler (USPN 2,269,963) in view of Campbell et al (USPN Re.34,936). Regarding claims 20 and 33, Wappler discloses an apparatus for carrying a plurality of sequentially positioned pellets (20) comprising a therapeutic agent (radioactive) and sequentially implanting one or more of the pellets within a tissue wall. See 1:6-7. The device includes an elongate body (32), a delivery chamber (22) having a space for the pellets (see figure 9) and a port (23), an actuator (39), and a distal end that is sharp and can penetrate a tissue wall. See element 23 and figure 2.

Regarding claims 21 and 34, see trigger 38.

Regarding claims 22 and 35, see handle 37 which can be held and moved to turn the distal end to guide the device through a body lumen if one so chooses.

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Regarding claim 23, the distal end of the device and the elongate body appear to be of a size and dimension that are capable of being inserted into a vessel of the body or into the interior of the heart if one so chooses.

Regarding claim 24, see tubular chamber 22 and 3:4.

Regarding claim 25, the distal end of the device is beveled and designed to penetrate tissue. See 3:10-12.

Regarding claims 26 and 36, see plunger 40.

Regarding claims 27 and 37, see ratchet assembly 41.

Regarding claim 29, see figure 9.

Regarding claims 30 and 38, see figure 2 and handle 37.

Regarding claim 31, see tubular (arcuate) chamber 22.

Regarding claim 32, see figure 9 element 24 and 3:12-22.

Wappler meets the claim limitations as described above but fails to include the elongate body being a flexible body. However, Campbell teaches a device for sequential delivery of pellets into a body having a sharp distal tip for delivering the pellets. As shown in figure 9, the device has an elongate flexible body (25) that is made from plastic resin (see 4:10-17).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious by one skilled in the art to make the elongate body (32) of Wappler from a plastic resin that is injection molded about tube 31 as taught by Campbell. In light of the fact that Wappler is silent as to the materials used to manufacture the device, one skilled in the art would recognize that plastic is a preferred material

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in the art due to its weight and ease of manufacture. The motivation for the incorporation would have been in order to use a known material to achieve the prior art device.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wappler in view of Dragan (USPN 4,457,712). Wappler meets the claim limitations with respect to claim 20 above but fails to include the threaded plunger of claim 28.

However, Dragan discloses an injection device that include both the teach of a plunger with ratchets and threads. See figures 6 and 17.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious by one skilled in the art to substitute the ratchets of Wappler for the threads as taught by Dragan. One skilled in the art would recognize that both threads and ratchets are designed to move the plunger from one end to another in order to dispense a material. However, one skilled in the art would recognize that threads provide the ability to move the plunger in smaller increments; thereby, enhancing the control of the movement of the plunger. The motivation for the substitution would have been in order to enhance the control of the movement of the plunger for dispensing the material.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

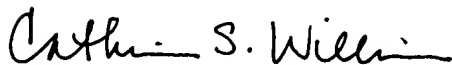
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*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine S. Williams whose telephone number is 571-272-4970. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Catherine S. Williams  
January 18, 2006